

PATENT
W&B Ref. No. : INF 2127-US
Atty. Dkt. No. INFNBW0053

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated June 1, 2005, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on September 1, 2005. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 1-22 are pending in the application. Claims 1-6 and 14-22 have been canceled. Claim 7-13 have been amended to more clearly recite the claimed features. New claims 23-36 have been added to recite aspects of the invention. Applicants submit that the amendments and new claims do not introduce new matter. Claims 7-13 and 23-36 remain pending following entry of this response.

Claim Objection

Claim 9 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c). The Examiner states that "[c]laim 9 is drawn to a feature that appears only in Figure 1 and no disclosure for using such a feature in Figure 2 is present."

Applicants respectfully submit that paragraph [0029] of the specification clearly provides "generating measurement voltages with the aid of voltage dividers" for the embodiment shown in Figure 2 and that paragraph [0024] provides that the voltage divider may be utilized to provide similar internal voltages. Therefore, the objection is believed to be improper, and withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 7-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Anderson et al.* (US Pat. No. 4,635,261, hereinafter "*Anderson*").

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

"A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). "The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ... claim." *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9

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USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989). The elements must be arranged as required by the claim. *In re Bond*, 910 F.2d 831, 15 USPQ2d 1566 (Fed. Cir. 1990).

In this case, *Anderson* does not disclose "each and every element as set forth in the claim". For example, *Anderson* does not disclose a switching device configured to select one of the internal voltages in accordance with a selection signal. The Examiner argues that *Anderson* discloses a "switching device 21" which "selects input responses of internal elements in accord with selection signals outputs from element 22" in columns 2-4 of *Anderson*. However, the cited passage is in fact directed to "a plurality of gates 21" and the "inputs 22" which are "both connected directly to gates 21 and coupled to gates 21 by shift registers 23." (*Anderson*, col. 2, line 64, to col. 3 line 1). Each input 22 receives an external signal. (*Anderson*, col. 3, lines 4-6). The "plurality of gates 21" receives input signals from the inputs 22 and provides the logical output to outputs 24. (*Anderson*, col. 3, lines 26-36). Therefore, the "plurality of gates 21" in *Anderson* do not perform the functions of "a switching device" as claimed and in particular, do not "select one of the internal voltages in accordance with a selection signal." Furthermore, regarding the Examiner's statement that "data signals, normally a series of ones and zeros are internal voltages", Applicants submit that the Examiner has mischaracterized signal-level input signals as equivalent to "internal voltages" which refer to power-level voltages generated in an integrated circuit.

As another example, *Anderson* does not disclose a comparator device configured to compare a measurement voltage, corresponding to the selected internal voltage, with an externally provided reference voltage and in order to output an error signal as a result of the comparison. The Examiner argues that *Anderson* discloses a "comparator device 26" which "compares the outputs of the shift registers 25 to an expected result which are a series of externally provided reference voltages" in column 4 of *Anderson*. However, the cited passage is in fact directed to "a nine bit comparator which is metal programmable" that contains a programmed nine-bit signature which is utilized to compared to "the bits contained in the last nine stages of shift register 25." (*Anderson*, col. 4, lines 32-66). Therefore, *Anderson*'s "comparator 26" does not compare the selected internal voltage against an externally provided reference voltage.

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As a further example, *Anderson* does not disclose a storage element in communication with the comparator device to store the error signal. The Examiner argues that *Anderson* discloses "shift registers 25" which "are storage elements in communication with a comparator device 26" in columns 2-4 of *Anderson*. However, the cited passage is in fact directed to "shift registers 25" which are connected upstream to the "comparator 26" and do not receive the output of the comparator. (*Anderson*, Figure 1 and col. 4 lines 29-31). As shown in Figure 1 of *Anderson*, the output of the comparator 26 is connected to "output 27" and is not connected to any storage element.

Therefore, the claims are believed to be allowable, and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

The secondary references made of record are noted. However, it is believed that the secondary references are no more pertinent to the Applicants' disclosure than the primary references cited in the office action. Therefore, Applicants believe that a detailed discussion of the secondary references is not necessary for a full and complete response to this office action.

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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